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## Viewing cable 09BUCHAREST153, A PERFECT STORM: CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW, AND JUSTICE REFORMS TAKE CENTER STAGE IN ROMANIA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09BUCHAREST153**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">09BUCHAREST153</a>	<a href="#">2009-03-06 11:58</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Bucharest</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.kamikazeonline.ro/2011/04/morar-dna-n-2009-la-ambasada-sua-dgipi-si-dga-fac-politic-politica/>

P 061158Z MAR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9294  
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
  
C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 000153

STATE FOR EUR/FO (GARBER), EUR/CE, EUR/ERA, AND EUR/PGI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KJUS](#) [EU](#) [RO](#)

SUBJECT: A PERFECT STORM: CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW, AND JUSTICE REFORMS TAKE CENTER STAGE IN ROMANIA

Classified By: CDA Jeri Guthrie-Corn for 1.5 (b) and (d)

[11](#). (C) Summary: An unexpected convergence of factors has recently brought matters involving the Rule of Law (ROL) and much-needed justice reform to the center stage of Media Coverage on Rising Crime

[13](#). (SBU) It is still unclear whether rising criminality in Romania is more media hype than a concrete phenomenon. The local press has been aware of the Opposition Decries Police Budget Cuts

[14](#). (C) Embassy contacts remain divided on the seriousness of the crime issue. We spoke recently with three members—two from the PNL and one from PSD. Scutaru also insisted that leadership turmoil in the Interior Ministry (e.g., four Interior Ministers in three months) and the resulting policy confusion have worried the European Commission

[15](#). (C) European Commission contacts are also seized with the issue. Dorina Nastase, head of the EC Representation's Political Section, told us that the Commission's Reports Underscore Lack of Progress

[16](#). (C) The mid-February release of an interim European Commission monitoring report provided little comfort to Romanians expecting the EU to conduct a full EC report had not been maintained; investigations of high-level corruption remain blocked by parliament; accountability of magistrates still needs to be improved. Infighting, Lack of Coordination Among Crime-Fighters

[17](#). (C) The DNA report elicited unexpected comments from Prosecutor General Laura Kovesi, who criticized her erstwhile ally, DNA Chief Prosecutor

[18](#). (C) Infighting among other agency heads responsible for justice reforms has been endemic. In recent months, Prosecutor General Kovesi confirmed that the Basescu Knocks Heads Together

[19](#). (C) President Basescu on February 17 convened an emergency "Justice Summit" at Cotroceni Palace to approve an action plan to deal with justice reform. We met separately with three participants—Buda, Licu, and Macovei—who agreed that Basescu's meeting gave much-needed impetus to a joint action plan. Big-Bang Code Reform Will Be Centerpiece

[20](#). (C) Our interlocutors said that the key decision at Basescu's justice summit was to create two separate ad hoc parliamentary committees to evaluate the justice system

[21](#). (C) Other Embassy contacts were leery of the fast-track option. Cristi Danilet and Adrian Neacsu, two founders of SoJust (Society for Justice Reform) and former PM Nastase: Corruption Poster Child?

[22](#). (C) On March 4 in a 158-128 vote Parliament unblocked the criminal prosecution of former Prime Minister Nastase, delivering on one of the promises made in the Justice Reform Through Blackmail?

[23](#). (C) Press attention has also focused on Justice Minister Predoiu's proposal to revive the Protection and Anti-Corruption Service (SIPA) at the Ministry of Justice

[24](#). (C) Comment: Our pick-up team of justice sector reformers is fraught with bad chemistry; many simply do not play well together. It is telling that the

GUTHRIE-CORN